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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/731,686	12/05/2000	Christopher D. Casscells	17616-845	9312

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EXAMINER

KEARNEY, ROSILAND STACIE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3739

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/731,686

Applicant(s)

CASSCELLS ET AL.

Examiner

Rosiland S Kearney

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 7-18, 20, 24-35, 37, 38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11, 12, 14-17 and 28-34 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 7-10, 13, 18, 20, 24-27, 35, 37 and 38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

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## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restriction***

1. Claims 11, 12, 14-17 and 28-34 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected species, the requirement having been traversed in Paper No. 6.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1, 3, 4, 20, 24-26, 35, 37 and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Casscells et al. '533. Casscells et al. disclose a surgical apparatus comprising a housing (108), a cannula (120), a drive interface (154), a surgical tool (132) including a shaft (130) and tip (142), an electrical interface (106) and an interconnector (216).

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4. Claims 1 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bays '795. Bays discloses a surgical apparatus comprising a housing (col. 4 lines 22-25), a cannula (12), a drive interface (42), a surgical tool (10) including a shaft (14) and tip (34), an electrical interface (36) and an interconnector (18).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.

Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 24 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bays '795 in view of Rydell '809. Bays teaches all of the limitations of the claims except a first electrical member suitable for switching. Rydell teaches that it is old and well known in the art to include a switch (44) as an electrical member for a surgical device to regulate the power supply to the tip. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an electrical member for switching as taught by Rydell on the Bays device to regulate the power supplied to the tip of the device.

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7. Claims 9, 10, 13, 18, 27 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bays '795 in view of Auth et al. '924. Bays teaches all of the limitations of the claims except the tip including a conducting portion and a non-conducting portion. Auth et al. teaches that it is old and well known in the art to include a conductive (46) and a non-conductive portion (40) on the tip portion of an electrosurgical device to provide multipolar treatment to tissue. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a conducting and non-conducting portion on the Bays device as taught by Auth et al. to provide multipolar treatment to tissue.
8. Claims 9, 10, 13, 18, 27 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Casscells et al. '533 in view of Auth et al. '924. Casscells et al. teach all of the limitations of the claims except the tip including a conducting portion and a non-conducting portion. Auth et al. teaches that it is old and well known in the art to include a conductive (46) and a non-conductive portion (40) on the tip portion of an electrosurgical device to provide multipolar treatment to tissue. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a conducting and non-conducting portion on the Casscells et al. device as taught by Auth et al. to provide multipolar treatment to tissue.
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Kearney whose telephone number is (703) 308-2711.

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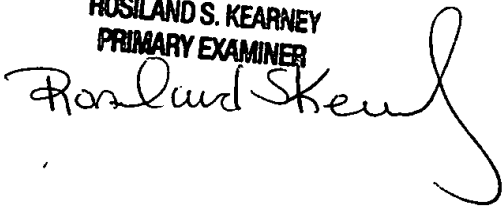
The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays through Fridays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0858.

RK

June 3, 2002

**ROSILAND S. KEARNEY**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Rosiland S. Kearney", written over the printed name and title.